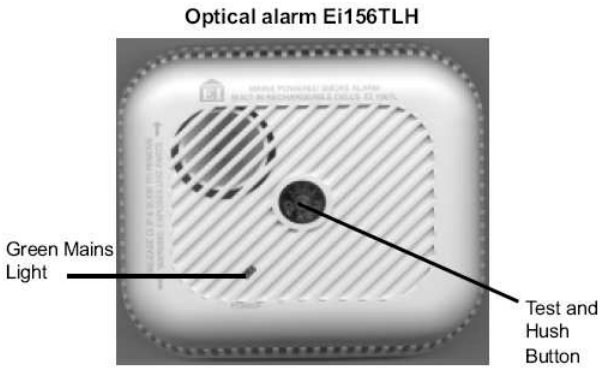
How to operate and test your smoke alarm



Soha will have installed one or two mains wired smoke alarms in your home depending upon its layout and the number of floors there are. Smoke alarms need to be tested on a regular basis to ensure they are working to make your home safe.

This guide tells you how to test the alarms. There are two, easily recognisable types. They are called optical and ionisation. If you would like a full installation or larger guide, please ask Soha Customer Services for a copy.

Soha will test the alarm for faults as part of its electrical installation testing programme every few years. But if you discover a fault or the back-up battery is running low (which results in the alarm beeping regularly), please let Soha know straight away.

Testing your alarm

1. Test the alarm weekly by pressing the test/hush button. See the arrow marked 'Test and Hush Button' on the picture above. The alarm should sound and a red light under the test button will flash. If there is more than one alarm in the house all alarms will sound if the button is pressed for 10 seconds.
2. Regularly check that the green mains light is on. The red light under the test button will flash approximately once every 40 seconds.

Looking after your alarm

1. Keep your smoke alarm clean - don't let dust and cobwebs build up, as this can cause false alarms.
2. Do not paint your alarm.
3. Ensure that you cover your alarm with the dust cover supplied when re-decorating or any building work is in progress.

False alarms

Smoke alarms can sometimes be set off accidentally. If your alarm sounds and there is no sign of smoke, heat or noise to indicate a fire, get your family to a safe place before investigating.

If there is more than one alarm in the property, you can tell which one has detected a problem by looking for a flashing red light beneath the test button.

To silence a nuisance alarm, press the test/hush button shown by the arrow marked Test and Hush Button on the picture overleaf. The red light will flash every 10 seconds to indicate that the alarm is in 'hush' mode. It will automatically reset after 10 minutes.